noncommutative gravity with self-dual variables



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outline

- introduction
- the palatini-holst action
- noncommutative gravity with a self-dual connection
- the commutative limit
- perturbative expansion in the deformation parameter
- further extensions of the model
- conclusions / discussion

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introduction

spacetime noncommutativity maybe a key feature characterising geometric structure of spacetime at planck scale (radical departure from standard description of ST as riemannian manifold)

<u>aim</u>: to build a dynamical theory of gravity consistent with the noncommutative structure we assume and which can recover GR in the appropriate regime

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<u>framework</u>: noncommutative structure is obtained via a twist-deformation of the differential geometry

aschieri, dimitrijevic, meyer, wess (2006); aschieri (2007); aschieri, lizzi, vitale (2008)

we generalise the model of *aschieri, castellani* to the full palatini-holst action

aschieri, catsellani (2009)

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spacetime noncommutativity requires the introduction of new gravitational d.o.f.

- ∃ correction terms relevant close to the noncommutativity scale, leading to higher-derivative interactions
- the commutative limit is a modified theory of gravity (bimetric theory featuring both torsion and non-metricity)

the palatini-holst action

the einstein-hilbert action for GR can be given a first order formulation, the **palatini action**, where the lorentz group SO(1,3) is an internal gauge symmetry

the palatini action can be generalised by supplementing a new term, the **holst term**, which **does not have any effect on the e.o.m. as long as torsion vanishes**

palatini-holst action in the commutative case

capital latin letters denote internal lorentz symmetries



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palatini-holst action in the commutative case

$$S[e,\omega] = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} P_{IJKL} \int e^{I} \wedge e^{J} \wedge F^{KL}(\omega)$$

capital latin letters denote internal lorentz symmetries

in the torsion-free case, the dynamics is not affected by the particular value of the barbero-immirzi parameter, which can be a priori an arbitrary complex number

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 $S[e, \omega] = -\frac{i}{32\pi G} \int \operatorname{Tr} \left[e \wedge e \wedge \left(\ast_{\mathrm{H}} F + \frac{1}{\beta} F \right) \right]$ $\ast_{\mathrm{H}} F^{IJ} = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{IJ}{}_{KL} F^{KL}$ trace over the lie algebra

 $*_{\rm H} \boldsymbol{F} = -i \boldsymbol{F} \gamma_5$

the curvature two-form (field strength)

$$F(\omega) = \frac{1}{2} F^{IJ}(\omega) \Gamma_{IJ} = \mathrm{d}\omega - i\omega \wedge \omega$$

the lie algebra valued connection one-form

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \frac{1}{2} \omega^{IJ} \Gamma_{IJ}$$

$$\Gamma_{IJ} = \frac{i}{4} [\gamma_I, \gamma_J]$$

the way tetrads are associated to vector valued one-forms

$$e = e^I \gamma_I$$

palatini-holst action in the commutative case

$$S[\boldsymbol{e},\boldsymbol{\omega}] = -\frac{i}{32\pi G}\int \mathrm{Tr}\left[\boldsymbol{e}\wedge\boldsymbol{e}\wedge\left(\ast_{\mathrm{H}}\boldsymbol{F} + \frac{1}{\beta}\boldsymbol{F}\right)\right]$$

invariant under gauge transformations Λ (lorentz transformations in the internal space)

$$e
ightarrow \Lambda e \Lambda^{-1}$$

 $\omega
ightarrow \Lambda \omega \Lambda^{-1} + i \Lambda d \Lambda^{-1}$
 $F
ightarrow \Lambda F \Lambda^{-1}$

with the gauge transformation Λ given by:

$$\Lambda(x) = \exp(-i\epsilon(x))$$
, with $\epsilon(x) = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{IJ}(x)\Gamma_{IJ}$

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a gauge connection is said to be self-dual (anti self-dual) if it is a solution to the eigenvalue equation

$$*_{\rm H} \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\pm} = \pm i \, \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\pm}$$

with
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analogous definition for the field strength

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decompose gauge connection and field strength into their ω self-dual and anti self-dual:

$$m{\omega}=m{\omega}_++m{\omega}_-\ ,\ \ m{F}=m{F}_++m{F}_-$$

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decompose gauge connection and field strength into their $\omega = \omega_+ + \omega_-$, $F = F_+ + F_-$ self-dual and anti self-dual:

$$F_{\pm}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\pm} - i\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\pm} \wedge \boldsymbol{\omega}_{\pm} = F_{\pm}(\boldsymbol{\omega}_{\pm})$$

the self-dual (anti self-dual) part of the field strength is given by the field strength of the self-dual (anti self-dual) of the gauge connection

for β = - i the anti self-dual component of the spin connection is projected out



$$S[e, \omega_{+}] = -\frac{i}{32\pi G} \int \operatorname{Tr}\left[e \wedge e \wedge (\ast_{\mathrm{H}} F + iF)\right] = \left(\frac{i}{16\pi G} \int \operatorname{Tr}\left[e \wedge e \wedge (\ast_{\mathrm{H}} F_{+}(\omega_{+}))\right]\right)$$

this is formally equal to twice the palatini action for a self-dual connection

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the action reduces to a functional of the tetrad and the self-dual connection only:

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the solution space of the theory is much enlarged; equivalence with the standard palatini theory is obtained only after imposing suitable reality conditions

tetrad e^I be real $\omega^{IJ}_{\,\,\,}$ be the self-dual part of a real connection one-form $\,\,\,$

$$\omega_{+}^{IJ} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\omega^{IJ} - i *_{\mathrm{H}} \omega^{IJ} \right)$$

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the solution space of the theory is much enlarged; equivalence with the standard palatini theory is obtained only after imposing suitable reality conditions

similarly, for β = + i , a theory of an anti self-dual connection is obtained

let us concentrate on self-dual connections; similar results for anti self-dual case

noncommutative field theories are formulated in terms of fields which are elements of a noncommutative algebra over spacetime, with a noncommutative, associative, product

this is generally a deformation of a commutative algebra, which is recovered when the noncommutativity parameter is set to zero

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<u>note:</u> it is a general feature of noncommutative gauge theories that the lie algebra of the structure group has to be extended in order to close

aschieri, dimitrijevic, meyer, scgraml, wess (2006)

this is also the case for the lorentz algebra in the case of twist-deformed spacetimes

aschieri, castellani (2009)

deformed gauge symmetry and symmetry enlargement

ordinary gauge theories are modified by replacing the pointwise product of fields with a noncommutative product indicated with $\,\star\,$



deformed gauge symmetry and symmetry enlargement

the resulting field theories are invariant under the deformed gauge transformations



gauge group elements defined as star exponentials:

$$g_{\star}(x) = \exp_{\star}\left(i\,\epsilon(x)^{i}T_{i}\right) = 1 + i\epsilon^{i}(x)T_{i} - \frac{1}{2}(\epsilon^{i}\star\epsilon^{j})(x)T_{i}T_{j} + \dots$$

deformed gauge symmetry and symmetry enlargement

the resulting field theories are invariant under the deformed gauge transformations

$$\phi(x) \longrightarrow g_{\star}(x) \triangleright_{\star} \phi(x) = \exp_{\star} \left(i \, \epsilon^{i}(x) T_{i} \right) \triangleright_{\star} \phi(x)$$

at the infinitesimal level:

$$\phi(x) \longrightarrow \phi(x) + i(\epsilon \triangleright_{\star} \phi)(x)$$

with $(\epsilon \triangleright_{\star} \phi)(x) = (\epsilon^{j} \star (T_{j} \triangleright \phi))(x)$

• deformed lie bracket $[\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2]_{\star}(x) = (\epsilon_1 \star \epsilon_2)(x) - (\epsilon_2 \star \epsilon_1)(x)$

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consistency of the theory demands that the algebra of infinitesimal gauge transformations must close under this *****- commutator

deformed gauge symmetry and symmetry enlargement

however, in noncommutative field theory algebra closure is not guaranteed

since

$$\begin{aligned} (\epsilon_1 \star \epsilon_2)(x) - (\epsilon_2 \star \epsilon_1)(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \left((\epsilon_1^i \star \epsilon_2^j)(x) + (\epsilon_2^j \star \epsilon_1^i)(x) \right) [T_i, T_j] \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \left((\epsilon_1^i \star \epsilon_2^j)(x) - (\epsilon_2^j \star \epsilon_1^i)(x) \right) \{T_i, T_j\} \end{aligned}$$

which contains the anticommutator of the algebra generators

extend the universal covering of the lorentz group to include the anticommutators

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extend the universal covering of the lorentz group to include the anticommutators

enlarge the gauge algebra and consider more general infinitesimal gauge transformations of the form:

$$\epsilon(x) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{IJ}(x) \Gamma_{IJ} + \epsilon(x) \mathbb{1} + \tilde{\epsilon}(x) \gamma_5$$

 $(\Gamma_{IJ}, \mathbb{1}, \gamma_5)$ is a set of generators of the reducible representation of $\mathfrak{gl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ on dirac spinors

aschieri, castellani (2009)

new gravitational degrees of freedom

as a consequence of the enlargement of the gauge symmetry algebra, the field content of the theory is extended as:



field strength of the gauge connection: $F = \frac{1}{2}F^{IJ}\Gamma_{IJ} + r\mathbb{I} + \tilde{r}\gamma_5$

field strength components

the lorentzian spin connection must be replaced by a $\mathfrak{gl}(2,\mathbb{C})$ gauge connection and similarly the tetrad must be replaced by a bitetrad

under an infinitesimal \star -deformed gauge transformation, the fields representing the basic dynamical variables of the theory transform as

$$e
ightarrow e + i[e, \epsilon]_{\star}$$

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the physical meaning of the enlarged gauge symmetry becomes transparent in the commutative limit

under an infinitesimal gauge transformation, the bitetrad components transform as:

$$\begin{split} \delta e^I &= \epsilon^I{}_J e^J + 2i \tilde{\epsilon} \, \tilde{e}^I \\ \delta \tilde{e}^I &= \epsilon^I{}_J \tilde{e}^J + 2i \tilde{\epsilon} \, e^I \end{split}$$

where

$$\epsilon(x) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{IJ}(x) \Gamma_{IJ} + \epsilon(x) \mathbb{1} + \tilde{\epsilon}(x) \gamma_5$$



a generic gauge transformation acts on the bitetrad as the composition of a lorentz transformation and a transformation generated by γ_5

the metric tensors can be defined using the two tetrad frames as:

$$g_{ab} = \eta_{IJ} e_a^I e_b^J$$
$$\tilde{g}_{ab} = \eta_{IJ} \tilde{e}_a^I \tilde{e}_b^J$$

related through the no-shear condition:

 $\tilde{e}_{a}^{I} = \Omega \Lambda^{I}{}_{J}e_{a}^{J}$ real function representing a weyl scaling

local lorentz transf

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under infinitesimal lorentz transformations the metric tensors transform as:

$$g_{ab} \to (\cosh \chi + \Omega \sinh \chi)^2 g_{ab}$$

 $\tilde{g}_{ab} \to (\cosh \chi + \Omega^{-1} \sinh \chi)^2 \tilde{g}_{ab}$

where $\chi = 2i \tilde{\epsilon}$ and assuming it to be real

accordingly the relative scale of the two metrics transforms as:

$$\Omega^2 \to \left(\frac{\Omega + \tanh\chi}{1 + \Omega \tanh\chi}\right)^2$$

for $\chi \to \pm \infty$: $\Omega \to 1$

action principle

palatini-holst action in the noncommutative case

$$S[\boldsymbol{e},\boldsymbol{\omega}] = -\frac{i}{32\pi G} \int \operatorname{Tr}\left[\boldsymbol{e} \wedge_{\star} \boldsymbol{e} \wedge_{\star} \left(\ast_{\mathrm{H}} \boldsymbol{F} + \frac{1}{\beta} \boldsymbol{F} \right) \right]$$

$$\boldsymbol{e} = e^{I} \gamma_{I} + \tilde{e}^{I} \gamma_{I} \gamma_{5}$$

 $*_{
m H} oldsymbol{F} = -i oldsymbol{F} \gamma_5$ bitetrad

dynamical variables $e = e^{I} \gamma_{I} + \tilde{e}^{I} \gamma_{I} \gamma_{5}$ bitetrad $\omega = \frac{1}{2} \omega^{IJ} \Gamma_{IJ} + \omega \mathbb{I} + \tilde{\omega} \gamma_{5}$ $\mathfrak{gl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ gauge connection

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 $\begin{array}{l} \mathbf{e} = e^{I}\gamma_{I} + \tilde{e}^{I}\gamma_{I}\gamma_{5} & \textit{bitetrad} \\ \\ \mathbf{\omega} = \frac{1}{2}\omega^{IJ}\Gamma_{IJ} + \omega\mathbb{I} + \tilde{\omega}\gamma_{5} & \mathfrak{gl}(2,\mathbb{C}) \ \textit{gauge connection} \end{array}$

this action is invariant under the infinitesimal \star -deformed gauge transformations:

 $e \rightarrow e + i[e, \epsilon]_{\star}$ $\omega \to \omega - (\mathrm{d}\epsilon - i[\omega, \epsilon]_{\star})$ $F \rightarrow F + i[F, \epsilon]_{\star}$

this action is also invariant w.r.t. diffeomorphisms and \star -diffeomorphisms
the enlargement of the internal gauge symmetry to $\mathfrak{gl}(2,\mathbb{C})$ s the minimal choice compatible with the twist

introduction of new gravitational degrees of freedom, represented by the extra components of ${\bf e}$ and ${\bf \omega}$

a bimetric theory of gravity (since the tetrad is replaced by a bitetrad)

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a bimetric theory of gravity (since the tetrad is replaced by a bitetrad)

we shall **not** impose that the extra degrees of freedom vanish in the commutative limit, but we shall retain all extra fields as physical and provide an interpretation in the framework of this bimetric theory the enlargement of the internal gauge symmetry to $\mathfrak{gl}(2,\mathbb{C})$ s the minimal choice compatible with the twist

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<u>note</u>: this theory will naturally feature higher-order derivatives as a consequence of the twist deformation

$$S[\boldsymbol{e},\boldsymbol{\omega}] = -\frac{i}{32\pi G}\int \operatorname{Tr}\left[\boldsymbol{e}\wedge_{\star}\boldsymbol{e}\wedge_{\star}\left(\ast_{\mathrm{H}}\boldsymbol{F} + \frac{1}{\beta}\boldsymbol{F}\right)\right]$$

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decompose connection ω into its self-dual and anti self-dual parts: $\omega = \omega_+ + \omega_-$

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where

 $oldsymbol{F}_+(\omega_+) = \mathrm{d}\omega_+ - i\omega_+ \wedge_\star \omega_+$ $oldsymbol{F}_-(\omega_-) = \mathrm{d}\omega_- - i\omega_- \wedge_\star \omega_-$

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decompose bitetrad **e** as: $e = P_+ u P_- + P_- v P_+$ \swarrow where $u = u^I \gamma_I$, $u^I = e^I + \tilde{e}^I$ projectors $v = v^I \gamma_I$, $v^I = e^I - \tilde{e}^I$

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as for the commutative palatini-holst theory, also in the noncommutative case, the choice β = - i leads to a theory of a self-dual connection

for
$$\beta = -\mathbf{i}$$
: $S[e, \omega_+] = -\frac{i}{8\pi G} \int u^I \wedge_\star v^J \wedge_\star \left[(F_+)_{IJ} + 2i\eta_{IJ}r_+ \right]$

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similarly, for β = + i the action depends only on the anti self-dual part of the gauge connection

for
$$\beta = +i$$
:

$$S[e, \omega_{-}] = \frac{i}{8\pi G} \int v^{I} \wedge_{\star} u^{J} \wedge_{\star} \left[(F_{-})_{IJ} + 2i\eta_{IJ}r_{-} \right]$$

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let us focus on the self-dual case and obtain the equations of motion

symmetries: deformed gauge invariance and duality

palatini-holst action in the noncommutative case

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continuous (gauge) symmetries:

noncommutative generalisations of the symmetries of the standard palatini theory

invariant under spacetime symmetries (diffeomorphisms, \star - diffeomorphisms), and deformed $GL(2,\mathbb{C})$ gauge transformations

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noncommutative generalisations of the symmetries of the standard palatini theory

invariant under spacetime symmetries (diffeomorphisms, \star - diffeomorphisms), and deformed $\operatorname{GL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ gauge transformations

- discrete (dualities) symmetries:
 - transformation of the couplings of the model: $G \rightarrow \beta G$ (effect of exchanging palatini and holst terms in the action)

 $\beta \to -\frac{1}{\beta}$

symmetries: deformed gauge invariance and duality

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$$S[e, \omega] = -\frac{i}{32\pi G} \int \operatorname{Tr}\left[e \wedge_{\star} e \wedge_{\star} \left(\ast_{\mathrm{H}} F + \frac{1}{\beta} F\right)\right]$$

continuous (gauge) symmetries:

noncommutative generalisations of the symmetries of the standard palatini theory

invariant under spacetime symmetries (diffeomorphisms, \star - diffeomorphisms), and deformed $\operatorname{GL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ gauge transformations

- discrete (dualities) symmetries:
 - transformation of the couplings of the model: $G \to \beta G$ $\beta \to -\frac{1}{\beta}$
- exchange of polar and axial components of the bitetrad: $e \rightarrow e \gamma_5$ (action invariant up to a sign and dynamics of pure gravity theory is invariant)

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- new duality symmetry that leaves the e.o.m. invariant while flipping the sign of the barbero-immirzi parameter: $\beta \rightarrow -\beta$

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the gravitational field equation has the same form as the field equation in vacuum einstein-cartan's theory

einstein tensor includes torsion contributions

$$R_{ab} \coloneqq R_{cab}{}^c = \overline{R}_{ab} + \overline{\nabla}_c K^c{}_{ab} + \overline{\nabla}_a T_b - T_c K^c{}_{ab} - K^c{}_{ae} K^e{}_{cb}$$

$$R \coloneqq g^{ab}R_{ab} = \overline{R} + 2\overline{\nabla}_a T^a - T^a T_a - K_{abc} K^{cab}$$

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the extra component in the $\mathfrak{gl}(2,\mathbb{C})$ gauge connection is identified with the weyl one-form and acts as a source for torsion

$$\nabla_{[a} T^{d}_{\ bc]} - T^{e}_{\ [ab} T^{d}_{\ c]e} = (\mathrm{d}w)_{[ab} \tilde{e}^{I}_{\ c]} e^{d}_{I}$$

weyl vector $w = -4i \,\omega_+$

torsion is sourced by non-metricity, thus even in vacuo,
 torsion would be dynamical in general
 an important departure from einstein-cartan's theory

perturbative expansion of the twist operator in the deformation parameter θ

$$\tilde{e}^{I} = \tilde{e}^{I}_{(0)} + \tilde{e}^{I}_{(1)} + \dots ,$$

 $T^{I} = T^{I}_{(0)} + T^{I}_{(1)} + \dots .$

valid approximation at scales much larger than the noncommutativity scale

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further extensions of the model: bitetrad interactions

the simplest (polynomial) interaction terms in 4-dim, compatible with the symmetries of the model, and do not give rise to higher-order derivatives in the commutative limit

$$S_{\text{int}}[e^{I}, \tilde{e}^{I}] = \int \left\{ i c_{1} \operatorname{Tr} \left[e \wedge_{\star} e \wedge_{\star} e \wedge_{\star} e \gamma_{5} \right] + c_{2} \operatorname{Tr} \left[e \wedge_{\star} e \wedge_{\star} e \wedge_{\star} e \right] + c_{3} \left(\operatorname{Tr} \left[e \wedge_{\star} e \right] \right)^{2} + c_{4} \left(\operatorname{Tr} \left[e \wedge_{\star} e \gamma_{5} \right] \right)^{2} \right\}$$

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there are only four possible such terms that are polynomial and compatible with the gauge symmetries of the model

commutative limit: a one-parameter bigravity model with interaction terms given by:

$$S_{\text{int}}^{\theta=0} = 4 c_1 \int \epsilon_{IJKL} \left(e^I \wedge e^J \wedge e^K \wedge e^L + \tilde{e}^I \wedge \tilde{e}^J \wedge \tilde{e}^K \wedge \tilde{e}^L - 2 e^I \wedge e^J \wedge \tilde{e}^K \wedge \tilde{e}^L \right)$$

interaction terms typical of ghost-free bimetric theories of gravity

<u>further extensions of the model</u>: higher-order curvature invariants

there are only two possible monomial invariants that can be built using only the field strength and its dual

the corresponding actions are quadratic in the curvature

pontryagin
$$S_{\rm P} = \int \operatorname{Tr} \left[\mathbf{F} \wedge_{\star} \mathbf{F} \right] = -\frac{1}{2} \int F^{IJ} \wedge_{\star} F_{IJ} + 4 \int \left(r \wedge_{\star} r + \tilde{r} \wedge_{\star} \tilde{r} \right)$$

macdowell-
mansouri action
$$S_{\rm MM} = \int \text{Tr} \left[\boldsymbol{F} \wedge_{\star} *_{\rm H} \boldsymbol{F} \right] = \frac{1}{2} \int F^{IJ} \wedge_{\star} *_{\rm H} F_{IJ} - 4 i \int \left(r \wedge_{\star} \tilde{r} + r \wedge_{\star} \tilde{r} \right) dr$$

conclusions

we generalized the model of *aschieri and castellani (2009*) and build a noncommutative extension of tetrad palatini-holst gravity, based on an abelian twist

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consistency requirements demand that the metric degrees of freedom of the theory must be also augmented, thus replacing the tetrad by a bitetrad

the theory is inherently bimetric

our universe consists of various particles with different spins and masses

SM of particle physics: massive and massless fields with spin 0, ½ and 1

gravitational interactions are attributed to a spin-2 field which, within standard GR, is massless and possesses nonlinear self-interactions

SM and GR are experimentally and observationally well-tested, but unsolved problems do remain: unknown nature of dark matter and dark energy

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ACDM model: phenomenological model

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proposal: add a massive spin-2 field whose presence is expected to mostly affect the gravitational sector

assuming lorentz invariance, weinberg's theorem in 1964 and its extensions exclude more than one interacting massless graviton in 4dim minkowski spacetime

those theorems do not exclude massive graviton(s) interacting with a massless graviton

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modifying gravity is motivated by the fact that the SM of particle physics is based on the very solid framework of renormalisable QFT **however, a theory of QG does not yet exist (hence GR is yet not complete)**

moreover, both DE and DM problems are intimately related to gravity but cannot be solved in the context of GR without raising additional questions

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a bimetric theory of gravity is a physical setup involving two dynamical metrics interacting with each other

in such a setup, after diagonalising the mass matrix for metric perturbations around minkowski background, one finds a massive graviton and a massless graviton
bimetric theory of massive gravity:

 $g_{\mu\nu}$: physical metric (the metric based on which all usual distances are defined)

 $f_{\mu
u}$: a dynamical rank-two tensor; this metric coupled to the physical one, gives mass to gravitons

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$$S = -\frac{M_g^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-\det g} R(g) - \frac{M_f^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-\det f} R(f)$$
$$+ m^2 M_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{-\det g} \sum_{n=0}^4 \beta_n e_n \left(\sqrt{g^{-1}f}\right) + \int d^4x \sqrt{-\det g} \mathcal{L}_m \left(g, \Phi\right)$$

the graviton mass m and the five quantities β 's are free parameters to be determined observationally

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the graviton mass m and the five quantities β 's are free parameters to be determined observationally

derive equations of motion to determine the time-evolution of the universe (if properties of matter and energy are known)

+ constraints from Bianchi identities + constraint from conservation of $T_{\mu
u}$

generic theories of massive gravity and bimetric gravity contain *a boulware-deser ghost mode* which renders these theories unstable

two constraints are needed to eliminate the two phase-space degrees of freedom of the *boulware-deser ghost*

in non-linear massive gravity and bimetric gravity theories, there exist a hamiltonian constraint and a secondary constraint rendering the boulware-deser ghost absent

hassan, rosen (2011)

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bimetric theory is a candidate to explain the late accelerated expansion of the universe

bimetric gravity has been shown to possess FLRW solutions which can match observations of the cosmic expansion history, even in the absence of vacuum energy

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remark:

in a bimetric theory, the two metrics are dynamical and come with their own equations of motion

in the model we have been discussing, there is however only **one spin connection** and **invariance is only under one copy of the gauge group**; the degrees of freedom of the second metric are not dynamic

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our standpoint: the extra d.o.f. required by the noncommutative extension are physical

a modified theory of gravity entailing both higher-order derivatives and new gravitational degrees of freedom is obtained, which naturally encodes modifications of spacetime structure at the planck scale

